

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 42 C.F.R. § 447.205, the Georgia Department of Community Health is required to give public notice of any significant proposed change in its methods and standards for setting payment rates for services.

Rate Increase for Newborn Screening Test Laboratory Fee

Pending Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approval, the Department proposes to increase the Department of Public Health (DPH) Newborn Screening Test Laboratory Fee.

The cost impact is as follows:

- Total Funds: \$918,725
- Federal Funds: \$622,896
- State Funds: \$295,829

Background:

1. The Department is proposing increasing the reimbursement rate for the newborn screening test to include screening newborn children for severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID).
2. Severe Combined Immunodeficiency (SCID) is a rare immune disorder in which the body is unable to fight off infections caused by viruses, bacteria, or fungi. Babies born with SCID have little or no immune system and without treatment even common infections can be life threatening.
3. The reimbursement rate would increase from \$50 to \$63.
4. This rate increase was included in HB751, Item 3052, to provide funds for therapies for children with congenital disorders (\$1,722,240).
5. The proposed rate increase is subject to CMS Approval.
6. On April 7, 2016, the Department of Public Health (DPH) published a Notice of Proposed Rule Making to amend DPH Regulation 511-5-5-.04, pursuant to O.C.G.A. § 31-2A-6 and § 31-12-6(f).
7. Procedurally, the newborn screening process works as follows:
 - Hospital takes blood from newborn through a heel prick,
 - Hospital sends this to state lab (DPH),
 - State lab sends the screening results to physician
 - Hospital submits technical and professional component of bill to DCH, using condition code A1 on the UB-04 field 24-30.
 - Condition Code A1 indicates that a NBS test was performed.
 - DCH remits the fee to the hospital for the NBS test.
 - DPH State Lab sends monthly invoices to hospital
 - Hospital sends the fee per NBS remitted to DPH

This public notice is available for review at each county Division of Family and Children Services office. An opportunity for public comment will be held on **August 16, 2016** at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the 5th Floor Board Room. Individuals who are disabled and need assistance to participate during this meeting should call (404) 656-4479. Citizens wishing to comment in writing on any of the proposed

changes should do so on or before **August 23, 2016**, to the Board of Community Health, Post Office Box 1966, Atlanta, Georgia 30301-1966. You may also email comments to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov or fax to 404-651-6880.

Comments submitted will be available for review by submitting a request via email to Danisha Williams, danwilliams@dch.ga.gov. Comments from written and public testimony will be provided to the Board of Community Health prior to the **September 8, 2016** Board meeting. The Board will vote on the proposed changes at the Board meeting to be held at 10:30 a.m. at the Department of Community Health (2 Peachtree Street, N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30303) in the 5th Floor Board Room.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THIS 11th DAY OF AUGUST, 2016

Clyde L. Reese III, Esq., Commissioner